

Upgrade Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems

All existing aboveground storage tank (AST) systems that fall under the jurisdiction of 20.5 NMAC, New Mexico Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations must be upgraded. The aboveground storage tank systems must comply with standards for new ASTs or must be properly closed by the following upgrade dates. The upgrades will be according to the following schedule:

By August 15, 2004:

- Corrosion Prevention Plan shall be submitted to the Department. The plan must be approved by a corrosion expert prior to submittal to the Department.
- Spill prevention equipment must be installed which will prevent release of product when the transfer hose is detached from the fill port. An example of this type of device is a spill catchment basin. AST Systems constructed so that the fill port is located within a secondary containment system, which meets the requirements for ASTs, will not be required to install this equipment.
- Overfill prevention equipment must be installed that will automatically shut off flow into the tank when the tank is no more than 95 percent full. The equipment must also alert the transfer operator when the tank is no more than 90 percent full by restricting the flow into the tank or triggering a high-level audible and visual alarm, or automatically shut off power to the pump to the tank when the tank is no more than 95 percent full.

- Release Detection Equipment must be installed or AST System will be modified to facilitate the use of an approved method.
- Existing AST Systems that were installed on or before July 1, 1991, or the date of installation is unknown must be internal inspected or tightness tested. AST Systems that are completely visible, readily accessible, and not in contact with the ground or soil shall be exempt from this requirement.

By July 1, 2006:

- The owner and operator of AST Systems shall implement their corrosion prevention plan.

By July 1, 2011:

- Tanks must be either double-walled or installed inside an approved secondary containment system. The secondary containment system may be constructed of concrete, earthen dike with geo-synthetic liner, or steel but cannot be constructed of clay. The secondary containment system must be able to contain 110 percent of the volume of the largest tank within the system in addition to the footprint any other tanks in the containment system.
- Piping that is a part of an aboveground storage tank system must be either double-walled or secondarily contained. Single-walled steel piping that is aboveground and coated with a suitable material does not have to be secondarily contained.

- ASTs that were in use on or before July 1, 2001 and were originally manufactured for use as an underground storage tank shall be certified for aboveground use by one of the following:
 - 1) The original equipment manufacturer certifies in writing that the tank meets standards set forth for aboveground storage tanks.
 - 2) A professional engineer certifies the tank for aboveground use in accordance with industry standards.
 - 3) An Inspector who is either authorized by the American Petroleum Institute or trained by the Steel Tank Institute certifies the tank for aboveground use in accordance with industry standards.
- Normal and emergency venting will be installed in accordance with an industry standard, for example, Petroleum Equipment Institute RP 200-03. Double-walled ASTs shall have proper venting installed on the interstice. Proper venting will prevent over pressurization of the tank and possible catastrophic failure.

Who Can Do Upgrades?

After August 15, 2004, only a certified installer shall perform these upgrades; these contractors will have passed written and in-field exams to demonstrate the proper skills required to do this type of work. Not using a certified installer after the above-mentioned date will be a violation of the state's regulations. If you have any questions regarding upcoming requirements for aboveground storage tank systems contact your Petroleum Storage Tank Inspector or the Program Manager in Santa Fe at 505-984-1741.

Note:

Owners and operators of above ground storage tank systems shall purchase Pollution Liability Insurance against 3rd Party Claims by **July 1, 2007**. The amount and scope of financial responsibility will be the same as those that have been in effect for underground storage tank systems.

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